

Sidney Herdman

Opening speech to the Burials Bill

Hello my name is Sidney herdman, I'm a member of the collaborate forum on behalf of the form thank you for the invitation.

I'm here today to discuss the bill on burials of unmarked graves of all institutions within Ireland. We would be very grateful if you take into consideration all unmarked graves of institutions within Ireland. I've been involved with the form for over 3 years, we have been discussing institutional abuse that happened in the 1900's as well as recommendations on burials of all the unmarked graves. The forum would like to see all unmarked graves be recognised and the correct documentation to be provided for their burial. Larger burial grounds need to be made into a registered graves in respect for the victims of the past and also allowing survivors and their family members to be able to allocate this also.

The forum has already sent out a report detailing recommendations for the Burial Bill on unmarked graves as well as the lack of documentation or data research about the burials. It was also requested in the report for a living memorial for all victims and survivors of the institution as well as local and national commemorations of the institutions. These recommendations have not been address by the state or has this report been published to our society. The forum feels that this is a unique opportunity for the Burials Bill to carry out the recommendations from the report to get justice for all victims and survivors of the institutions. This would be a great asset for our society to be able to move on from the atrocity behaviours that occurred in the 1900's by religious organisations and the State.

Thank you for your time in listening to the forums opening statement.
Any questions?